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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/025,185	12/19/2001	Chang-Gong Liu	10907-5	8487
22840	7590	09/30/2004	EXAMINER	
AMERSHAM BIOSCIENCES PATENT DEPARTMENT 800 CENTENNIAL AVENUE PISCATAWAY, NJ 08855			WILDER, CYNTHIA B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1637	

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/025,185

Applicant(s)

LIU ET AL.

Examiner

Cynthia B. Wilder, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-67 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 23-42 and 59-67 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 and 43-58 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1-22 and 43-58 in the reply filed on July 9, 2004 is acknowledged. Accordingly, claims 23-42 and 59-67 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed March 25, 2002 and November 17, 2003 is acknowledged. However, The priority document A22 and A23 was not considered by the Examiner because the documents could not be found in the instant application. Additionally, the document listed as B1 was not considered by the Examiner because and English language translation of the document was not provided by Applicant. In order to facilitate consideration of those documents by the Examiner, it is suggesting submitting the documents A22 and A23 and an English language translation for documents listed as B1. The form-1449 will remain in the case until a response has been received from Applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-22 and 43-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

(a) Claims 1-22 and 43-58 are indefinite because the claims lack a final process step which clearly relates back to the preamble. The claims are drawn to "a method of detecting a target

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nucleic acid or protein" or "a method of detecting a single nucleotide polymorphism", whereas the final step recites "detecting the fluorophore". Thus it cannot be clearly determined if the method is directed to detecting a target molecule or polymorphism or detecting specific signal. It is suggested amending the claims to recite a final process step which clearly relates back to the preamble and for consistency of claim language.

(b) Claims 1-22 are confusing in claim 1 because the claim 1 lacks a correlative step which links a first member of a binding pair to a target nucleic acid or target protein. The claim 1 as written only requires that a first member of a binding pair be provided and subsequently contacted with a second member of a binding pair and detected. Thus it cannot be determined how the steps operate to detect a target nucleic acid or protein in the context of the claim language. Clarification is required.

(c) Claims 12, 13 and 50 are indefinite at the recitation of "capable of" because it cannot clearly be determine whether the limitation after "capable of" is a property of the "probe" or the "reactive site" or whether the limitation is a separate entity. Clarification is required.

Conclusion

5. No claims are allowed. However, the claims are free of the prior art because the prior art does to teach the step of hybridizing a target nucleic acid or protein to a probe attached to a hydrogel matrix through a 2 + 2 photocycloaddition. The closest prior art, Nova et al (US 5751629, May 1998) teach a method of detecting a target molecule comprising providing a target comprising a nucleic acid and hybridizing the target nucleic acid to a probe attached to a hydrogel (polyurethane based polymer) matrix. The reference does not teach wherein the probe

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is attached to the hydrogel matrix through a 2 + 2 photocycloaddition. No motivation could be found in the prior art for the instant invention as claimed. Accordingly, an obviousness-type rejection could not be made.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cynthia B. Wilder, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0791. The examiner works a flexible schedule and can be reached by phone and voice mail. Alternatively, a request for a return telephone call may be emailed to cynthia.wilder@uspto.gov. Since email communications may not be secure, it is suggested that information in such request be limited to name, phone number, and the best time to return the call.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on (571) 272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

Cynthia Wilder
CYNTHIA WILDER
PATENT EXAMINER

9/24/04